



Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program Monthly Update **July 2005**

HCDOP is a partnership of 28 organizations that conducts monitoring and analysis and develops potential corrective actions to address the low dissolved oxygen problem in Hood Canal. Following is a monthly update on HCDOP activities.

Next HCDOP meeting

- *When/where*
 - **August 9, 1pm to 4 pm., at the Theler Wetlands Center in Belfair.**
- *Proposed agenda items for the next meeting*
 - Report on Congressman Dicks' proposed funding for state and federal agencies for work on Hood Canal (all agencies come prepared to share what they know) (Fagergren, PSAT).

Algal Bloom and Fish Kill Information

- July saw both a *Noctiluca* bloom event (bright red, non-toxic) and a bloom of paralytic shellfish poison (PSP) containing plankton (not red, toxic). This has led to some confusion regarding "red tide" which is being explained on the HCDOP websites (see below under "Outreach"). While PSP closures have occurred in Hood Canal, these are relatively rare. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
- WDFW staff members visited and reported on the *Noctiluca* bloom. (Mills, WDFW)

Scientific Studies

- *Project update*
 - See the 1st Quarterly Report for the HCDOP IAM Study posted at <http://www.hoodcanal.washington.edu/news-docs/publications.jsp>. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
 - Held 2nd Quarterly Meeting on 26 July 2005 at APL-UW in Seattle. Meeting minutes are posted at <http://www.hoodcanal.washington.edu/news-docs/publications.jsp>. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
 - Participated in the PSAMP review of hypoxia, using Hood Canal as the primary example of this problem in Puget Sound. (Fagergren, PSAT)
- *New information generated by projects*
 - Data to calculate the oxygen inventory for South Hood Canal main-stem were obtained on the semi-annual PRISM cruise, which visited 12 stations in Hood Canal on 29-30 June, 2005 with participation from UW, HCSEG, Ecology, and the Skokomish Tribe. Mark Warner's (UW) calculations show the average DO

- concentration in the south Hood Canal main-stem from June 2005 is slightly greater (~0.5 mg/L) than that seen in June of 2002, 2003, 2004. However, it is comparable to the June 1999 value and during 1999, the DO values decreased as summer progressed to values as low as during 2004. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
- From the Citizen Monitoring data, DO in Lynch Cove appeared slightly higher in spring (Mar-May) of 2005 as compared to 2004. However, during June-July 2005, values have plummeted to very low concentrations, less than 1 mg/L, similar to those seen in 2004. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
 - A new ORCA profiling mooring was deployed at Sund Rocks area on 26 July and will come on-line operationally in August. This unit can generate more power and its newly designed winch is capable of profiling the full water column depth, which is much deeper (125 m) than at previous ORCA deployments (~40 m). (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
 - Routine phytoplankton monitoring and analysis will begin in August by HCSEG and PSI. As part of this, several ancillary studies on plankton are being made by UW Oceanographers on these samples. Specific experiments are planned for 8 August, in collaboration with Oceans and Human Health project, to measure onshore fluxes and on 15 August, in collaboration with Dr. Ginger Armbrust, to measure community response to nutrient enrichment. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
 - The USGS and UW modeling teams met together on 19 July in Seattle to compare results and exchange ideas. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
 - Several other HCDOP IAM task-specific meetings have occurred: 11 July--Marine Waters Strategy (HCSEG, Skok, UW); 25 and 26 July--Phytoplankton Studies Scoping (HCSEG, UW, PSI); 26 July--Geology Mapping, to strategize the scope and funding for the sequential mapping of the geological features within established quad map areas in lower Hood Canal (HCSEG, UW). (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)

Corrective Actions

- *Project update*
 - Kitsap County Health District has completed its shoreline investigation for OSS failures and nutrient inputs along the Kitsap County shoreline, between Lone Rock and Holly, through its EPA/PSAT grant. An internal draft of the report is being finalized at this time for peer review in August. In summary, out of 340 homes, 7 OSS failures have been confirmed and are in correction, and 4 OSS are still being investigated. No correlation was found between nitrogen discharges and drainages with high fecal coliform counts. The four sites identified with the highest nitrogen discharges did not have OSS failures, but did have significant yard waste piles/compost piles immediately above the sampling points. (Grellner, KCHD).
 - Hoodport-Skokomish Wastewater Study: Mason County and Gray and Osborne Consulting Engineers held a stakeholder meeting on July 28 at the Skokomish Tribal Center to discuss preliminary findings from the study. The study assesses four treatment options for the corridor based on projected population growth and

- design flows to 2025: conventional onsite systems, enhanced onsite systems, cluster systems, and centralized treatment. The draft screening analysis will be circulated to stakeholders for comment in August, followed by additional review and feedback on the full report. (Glasoe, PSAT)
- Anaerobic Digester Feasibility Study: Staff from Mason Conservation District have been working closely with staff from Washington State University on the analysis. Mason CD held a meeting with key stakeholders and WSU staff on July 14 to discuss scenarios and options for the digester. The preliminary conclusion is that a digester is feasible in the Skokomish Valley. Mason CD expects to complete the draft report in August and circulate it for review. Follow-up work will be completed with state funding administered by the Washington Conservation Commission. (Glasoe, PSAT)
 - The HCCC attitude survey is complete. Data has been analyzed and compared to the US census information. We generated summary statistics and will present this information to the HCCC Board in September, and will complete a summary report of the project for the public. (Christensen, HCCC)
 - Based on the survey results, HCCC staff are targeting three communities for potentially developing community/cluster sewage systems: Union, Ayock Beach and Paradise Bay (near Port Ludlow). HCCC staff have had initial meetings community members in Union. (Christensen, HCCC)
 - The HCCC staff are coordinating a “joint Board of Health” meeting, with the three counties boards in October. The goal of the meeting is to compare successes and challenges with local onsite programs. We anticipate this will be the first meeting in a series. (Christensen, HCCC)
 - *New information generated by projects*
 - Developing a state GMAP process for HC, focusing not only on state and federal funds appropriated to the Action Team, but also on all state agency projects funded through the legislature for the '05-'07 session. (Fagergren, PSAT)
 - Contacted PSAT partner agencies to develop a list of interagency teams to work on project tracking and performance measures, per the state's GMAP process for Hood Canal. (Fagergren, PSAT)

Outreach

- *Public education and outreach updates*
 - WSU Jefferson co. has attended several community events this summer and has distributed over 100 copies of the Guide for Shoreline Living. They held a Canal friendly gardening practices workshop on July 28, which also promoted the Shore Stewards, Simple Techniques and Hood Canal Watershed Pledge programs. (Knackstedt, PSAT).
 - WA Sea Grant kayaked the canal to distribute sink screens to shoreline landowners this summer. Sea Grant has distributed several hundred screens. (Knackstedt, PSAT).
 - The HCCC is redesigning our website. It will be more user-friendly to allow people to sign up for meeting notices and email updates. This may be a good opportunity to develop an email list for quick updates to the public. (Christensen, HCCC)

- Attended and participated in the HCCC briefing of PUD #1 Commissioners about their possible role in onsite sewage operation and management programs in the canal. (Fagergren, PSAT)
- HCWEN's last meeting took place on Thursday July 14 at the Kitsap SSWM Conference Room in So. Bremerton. This meeting focused around assessing current education programs and prioritizing future needs and programs. An "Assessment Matrix" is available from Emily Piper at elpiper@wsu.edu. (Piper, HCWEN)
- A brainstorming session also took place at this last meeting focusing around prioritizing future goals, addressing education and audience gaps, new outreach styles etc. Notes are available from elpiper@wsu.edu. (Piper, HCWEN)
- HCWEN has renewed its contact list and is now serving over 80. If you would like to be added to this list or need to update your information please contact Emily Piper at elpiper@wsu.edu. (Piper, HCWEN)
- The UW HCDOP website, and by link the PSAT HCDOP website, have been updated to show information and photos of recent plankton bloom events http://www.hoodcanal.washington.edu/observations/bloom_fishkill.jsp to inform the public about the nature of the blooms, what these look like, and their significance. There was strong public concern and inquiry regarding these events. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
- Jim Dawson (People for Puget Sound) gave Dan Hannafious a copy of the Hood Canal powerpoint that was produced for the purpose of community education. This version was cooperatively created by PFPS and HCSEG and was edited by the HCCG. It has been reviewed and approved by PFPS. Dan will finalize formatting and release it to HCWEN and it will be available for posting on websites. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
- *Comments/questions from public*
 - HCCC attitude surveys were full of comments. We are trying to decide how to best handle individual comments. (Christensen, HCCC)
- *Response to public sentiments/concerns/issues*
 - Responded to questions on *Noctiluca* blooms in the Hoodspout vicinity posed by citizens, and forwarded a recommendation to Jan, Dan and Rita Horner (IAM study) to post a fact sheet on the HCDOP web site, as well as the PSAT web site (Fagergren, PSAT)
 - In response to public concern over the *Noctiluca* blooms and the PSP outbreaks, the HCDOP IAM Event Response task has generated e-mails to key local stakeholders, businesses, legislative folks and residents with a pointer to the HCDOP website regarding information. This has been reported by a scuba shop owner to be helpful when fielding calls from the public and reported from a local resident to be helpful in sharing info with others. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
- *Public outreach needs*
 - There appears to be a desire to have a brief monthly update to a broad cross section of Hood Canal residents, almost like a newsletter. While something formal is probably not desirable (because of the time and effort required), HCCC staff are thinking about putting together a 1/2-1 page monthly update. It would be

a subset of the information in this HCDOP communications document in a format for the general public. (Christensen, HCCC) *(Note from Anne Criss: Bob Hager expressed a similar outreach need at the last HCDOP meeting. This outreach need may be addressed in the communications plan, which we will discuss at the next meeting on August 9. We can also discuss at that time how best to coordinate.)*

- *Upcoming meeting notices/speaking engagements*
 - HCCC staff will be speaking at the Hood Canal Improvement Club in Union in September. (Christensen, HCCC)
 - The next HCCC board meeting is scheduled for August 4th. We will be discussing issues related to implementing ESHB 2097 among other things. (Christensen, HCCC)
 - HCWEN's next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday October 13 from 1-3pm at the Kitsap SSWM Conference Room Annex in So. Bremerton. Agenda items to be determined. (Piper, HCWEN)
 - Jefferson Co. Fair: July 12-14, Port Townsend. The Hood Canal Watershed Pledge and Shore Stewards will be hosting an education booth. (Piper, HCWEN)
 - Taste of Hood Canal: August 13 in Belfair from 11am-8pm. HCWP and SS will be hosting an information booth on site. (Piper, HCWEN)
 - Kitsap Co. Fair: August 25-28. HCWP and SS will have information available with the WSU Kitsap Extension Booth. (Piper, HCWEN)
 - Harmony Hill Summerfest: August 27, Union WA from 11-4. HCWP and SS will have an information booth on site. (Piper, HCWEN)
 - September 6th: HCWP and SS will be presenting to the Port Townsend Rotary Club. (Piper, HCWEN)
 - Dewatto Day on August 20 is cancelled. (Piper, HCWEN)
 - Kitsap Rotary Club, 10 November, Newton will give a presentation for HCDOP IAM. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)

Funding

- *Funding needs*
 - HCWEN will be seeking funding for a Program Coordinator in Fall 2005. % FTE is at this point undetermined. (Piper, HCWEN)
 - The Hood Canal Youth Summit Program will need funding and a coordinator for 2006. (Piper, HCWEN)
- *Upcoming funding opportunities*
 - CCWF/Centennial funding requests for proposals will be out at the end of August and will be due October 31st. (Christensen, HCCC)
 - Tom Luce reports that Congressman Norm Dicks has put in \$2.4 M for an appropriation of the House budget for the Hood Canal IAM study Y2 funding. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
 - Met with PSAT Education program lead, Mary Knackstedt, to discuss educational needs and funding for projects in the '05-'07 biennium, including PIE funding. Mary has been working with HCWEN members to identify upcoming funding needs. (Fagergren, PSAT)

Legislative or Congressional action or briefings

- *Legislative contacts/meetings*
 - Contacted by Richard Roger, lead staff to the Senate Energy, Water and Ecology committee, to help arrange a tour and briefing on Hood Canal for Senators Poulsen and Rockefeller in August. (Fagergren, PSAT)
- *Regulations or policy issues*
 - Mason County and Mason PUD passed a resolution outlining their desire to work together to develop and advance a utility model to manage water, wastewater and stormwater within the county. Staff meetings will begin in August to develop a long-term action plan. (Christensen, HCCC)
 - Met with Brad Ack and Jay Watson related to an MOU and funding for the HCCC, per ESHB 2097. (Fagergren, PSAT)
 - Met with Dave Christensen to formulate an outline for a joint Hood Canal Rehabilitation program for the PSAT and the HCCC. (Fagergren, PSAT)
- *Briefings*
 - HCCC briefed the Mason PUD #1 Board of Commissioners about the HCCC water quality program in Hood Canal. There was a lot of discussion and questions specific to ESHB 2097 and how that would impact the PUD and other local governments. (Christensen, HCCC)

Media

- *Media contacts or requests*
 - Participated in a telephone interview with KMAS radio, on the *Noctiluca* bloom in the canal (Fagergren)
 - Jan Newton responded to questions by Warren Cornwall, Seattle Times, in reference to the *Noctiluca* bloom but also regarding Hood Canal, the IAM study, and his general inquiries. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
- *Media coverage*

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Seattle Post-Intelligencer Editorial Board

July 24, 2005

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/opinion/233671_pugeted.asp

Gregoire announces new focus on Puget Sound's health

Seattle Post-Intelligencer Reporter

July 18, 2005

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/233023_sound18.html

Gregoire pushes Puget Sound plan

The Olympian

July 8, 2005

<http://159.54.227.3/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050708/NEWS01/507080328/1006>